

Statewide Multimodal Plan

Policy Committee (PC) Meeting

February 20, 2003

Summary

Ms. Connally welcomed everyone and began the meeting.

Work Plan Review

Katherine Graham gave a presentation to the group on the *VTrans2025* workplan developed by the Technical Committee (see attachment). Deputy Secretary Davis pointed out that the workplan reflects an accelerated schedule, as requested by the Governor. Ms. Connally explained to the group that the term “vision” refers not to a single sentence vision statement, but to a larger document that includes data, analysis, and planning aspects. Other group discussion related to the need to ensure that the specific deliverables identified in the legislation are completed in a timely fashion and clearly labeled on the work plan diagram. The lack of a budget for the plan was also of concern to committee members. Deputy Secretary Davis informed the group that staff would be having a meeting to address the budget issue.

There were no objections to the work plan as presented.

Presentation – Dr. Roger Stough

Dr. Stough gave a presentation to the group on sprawl, land use and other transportation issues (see attachment). During the discussion that followed his presentation, Dr. Stough identified several issues that will be important in long-range transportation planning, including safety and security requirements, paratransit, accessibility to aviation services, truck/rail interface, and logistics. He also suggested the need to examine certain transportation policies, including those that create friction in the implementation of transportation infrastructure, those that deal with the quality of products/services, and those that deal with asset management. State policies can have a tremendous impact on the identification of transportation needs.

Discussion

Ms. Connally led a group discussion on the committee members’ priorities and goals. The discussion was guided by comments solicited prior to the meeting.

Many comments addressed the funding issue and the appropriate framework for making investment decisions. The group agreed that it is necessary to produce a good plan that identifies needs in an objective manner so that it can be used to support any requests for additional funding. The group also agreed that it will be necessary to keep an open mind regarding funding options and not be tied to traditional funding formulae, etc. The group also discussed the need to ensure grass roots support for the plan's goals and recommendations.

Other comments addressed governance/process issues, such as the appropriate level of state government for multimodal transportation planning, and the state's role in transportation planning and funding. It is anticipated that the plan will contain recommendations for process improvements and identify issues for follow-up as well.

Finally the group discussed various means of determining what the transportation system should look like in 2025. The group agreed that it will be important to identify the problems that continuing down the same path will lead to, but it will also be important to identify workable solutions to those problems. The ultimate goal will be to have a balanced transportation system that meets the needs of people and goods. This will require thinking beyond the current system, revenue constraints, etc.

Ray Pethtel gave a short summary of the process that will be used by VA Tech to develop the vision concept for VTrans2025. A preliminary report will be presented to the committee in March.

The group was asked to forward any additional comments related to this policy discussion to Katherine Graham. Comments can be sent to the statewide plan e-mail account at statewideplan@virginiadot.org.

Attendance

Julia Connally
James Keen
Harry Lester
Gerald McCarthy
Hunter Watson
John Milliken
William Kehoe
Robert Bray
Charles Macfarlane
Karen Rae
Philip Shucet
Secretary Whitt Clement
Ralph Davis
Mary Lynn Tischer

Roger Stough
Kathy Graham
Gus Robey
Lynda South
Ken Lantz, Jr.
Ranjeet Rathore
George Conner
Ray Pethtel
Jeff Florin
Cliff Burnette
Marsha Fiol
Jeff Southard
Kimberly Spence
Connie Sorrell
Tom Swanson